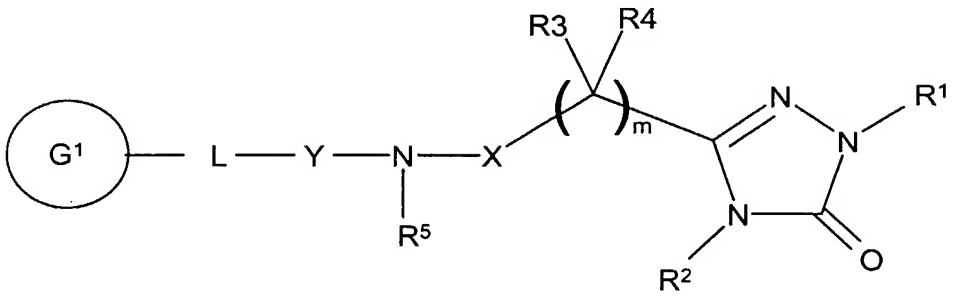
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof



(I)

wherein

R^1 and R^2 independently represent H or C1 to 6 alkyl; said alkyl being optionally further substituted by an aryl ring or an aromatic heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said aromatic ring being optionally further substituted by halogen, CF_3, C1 to 4 alkyl or C1 to 4 alkoxy;

Each R^3 and each R^4 independently represents H or C1 to 6 alkyl; said alkyl being optionally further substituted by OH, C1 to 4 alkoxy, C1 to 4 alkylthio, amino, N-alkylamino or N,N-dialkylamino;

or R^3 and R^4 are bonded together so as to form a 3 to 7 membered ring; said ring optionally incorporating one heteroatom selected from O, $S(O)_q$ and N;

m represents an integer 1, 2 or 3;

X represents a group S(O), $S(O)_2$ or C(=O);

R^5 represents H or C1 to 6 alkyl; said alkyl being optionally further substituted by halogen, OH or C1 to 6 alkoxy;

Y represents a direct bond;

or Y and R^5 are bonded together such that the group $-NR^5Y-$ together represents a 4 to 7 membered saturated or partially unsaturated azacyclic ring; said azacyclic ring optionally incorporating one further heteroatom selected from O, $S(O)_n$ and N; said azacyclic ring being optionally benzo fused; said azacyclic ring being optionally substituted by C1 to 6 alkyl, C1 to 6 alkoxy or OH;

L represents a direct bond;

or L represents O, $S(O)_p$, C(O), NR^6, $C(O)NR^6$, $NR^6C(O)$, C2 to 6 alkynyl, C2 to 6 alkenyl, C1 to 6 alkyl, C1 to 6 heteroalkyl or C3 to 6 heteroalkynyl; said alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group being optionally further substituted by halogen, OH or C1 to 6 alkoxy;

n, p and q independently represent an integer 0, 1 or 2;

G^1 represents a monocyclic, bicyclic, tricyclic or tetracyclic group comprising one, two, three or four ring structures each of up to 7 ring atoms; each ring structure being independently selected from cycloalkyl; cycloalkenyl; heterocycloalkyl; unsaturated heterocycloalkyl; aryl; or an aromatic heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; with each ring structure being independently optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, CHO, C1 to 6 alkyl, C1 to 6 alkoxy, halo-C1 to 6 alkoxy, amino, N-alkylamino,

N,N-dialkylamino, alkylsulfonamino, C2 to 6 alkanoylamino, cyano, nitro, thiol, alkylthio, alkylsulfonyl, alkylaminosulfonyl, C2 to 6 alkanoyl, aminocarbonyl, N-alkylamino-carbonyl, N,N-amino-carbonyl;

wherein any alkyl radical within any substituent may itself be optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from halogen, hydroxy, C1 to 6 alkoxy, halo-C1 to 6 alkoxy, amino, N-alkylamino, N,N-dialkylamino, N-alkylsulfonamino, N-C2 to 6 alkanoylamino, cyano, nitro, thiol, alkylthio, alkylsulfonyl, N-alkylaminosulfonyl, CHO, C2 to 6 alkanoyl, aminocarbonyl, N-alkylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dialkylaminocarbonyl and carbamate;

and wherein any alkyl radical is a C1 to 6 alkyl radical;

and when G^1 is a bicyclic, tricyclic or tetracyclic group, each ring structure is independently joined to the next ring structure by a direct bond, by -O-, by C1-6 alkyl, by C1-6 haloalkyl, by C1-6 heteroalkyl, by C2-6 alkenyl, by C2-6 alkynyl, by sulfone, by CO, by NR^7CO, by $CONR^7$, by NR^7, by S, or by C(OH), or each ring structure is fused to the next ring structure;

R^6 and R^7 independently represent H or C1 to 6 alkyl;

and when the group $-NR^5Y-$ represents an azacyclic ring and L represents a direct bond, the group G^1 may also be spiro fused to the azacyclic ring;

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein X represents $S(O)_2$.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2, wherein R^1 and R^2 each represent hydrogen.

4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein R^3 and R^4 each represent hydrogen.

5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein R^5 represents hydrogen or C1 to 6 alkyl and Y represents a direct bond.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the group $-NR^5Y-$ together represents a five or six membered saturated or partially unsaturated azacyclic ring, said azacyclic ring optionally incorporating one further heteroatom selected from O, $S(O)_n$ and N.

7. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein L represents a direct bond, O, C2 to 6 alkynyl, C1 to 6 alkyl, C1 to 6 heteroalkyl or C3 to 6 heteroalkynyl.

8. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein G^1 represents an optionally substituted monocyclic or bicyclic ring structure.

9. A compound according to claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of:
5-[({4-[(5-chloropyridin-2-yl)oxy]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)methyl]-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;
5-[2-({4-[(5-chloropyridin-2-yl)oxy]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)ethyl]-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;
5-[3-({4-[(5-chloropyridin-2-yl)oxy]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)propyl]-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;
5-({[4-(4-chlorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]sulfonyl}methyl)-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;
5-({[4-[(2-methoxypyrimidin-5-yl)ethynyl]-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(2H)-yl]sulfonyl}methyl)-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;
5-({[4-{[2-(trifluoromethyl)pyrimidin-5-yl]ethynyl}-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(2H)-yl]sulfonyl}methyl)-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;

5-({[4-[(2-cyclopropylpyrimidin-5-yl)ethynyl]-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(2H)-yl]sulfonyl}methyl)-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;

5-({[4-(4-chlorophenyl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}methyl)-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;

N-benzyl-1-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)methanesulfonamide;

1-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)-N-(2-phenylethyl)methanesulfonamide;

5-(2-{[4-(4-chlorophenyl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}ethyl)-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;

5-(2-{[4-(4-chlorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]sulfonyl}ethyl)-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;

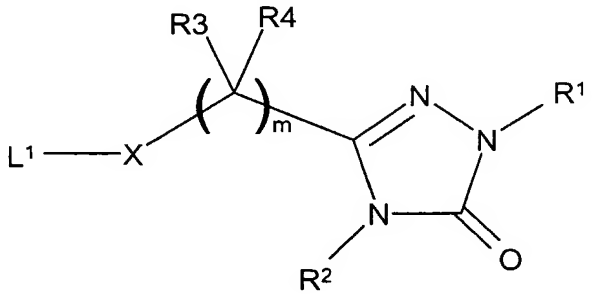
5-(3-{[4-(4-chlorophenyl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}propyl)-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;

5-(3-{[4-(4-chlorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]sulfonyl}propyl)-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.

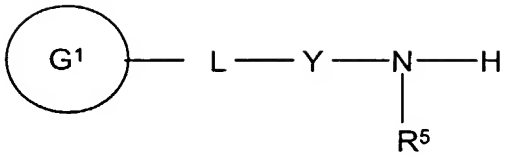
10. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof as defined in claim 1 which comprises:

reaction of a compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, X and m are as defined in Claim 1 and L^1 represents a leaving group, with a compound of formula (III)



(III)

wherein G^1, L, Y and R^5 are as defined in Claim 1;

and optionally thereafter forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

12. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 11 which comprises mixing a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9 with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

13. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 for use in therapy.

14. Use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of an obstructive airways disease.

15. Use according to claim 14, wherein the obstructive airways disease is asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

16. A method of treating a disease or condition mediated by MMP12 and/or MMP9 which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9.

17. A method of treating an obstructive airways disease which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9.